

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1545

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE, NATO
SUBJECT: ECONADS: CSCE MARCH 21 ECONADS EXPERTS MEETING
ON BASKET II

THE CANADIAN DELEGATION HAS TRANSMITTED THE FOLLOWING
TEXT OF BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS HELD IN OTTAWA ON
MARCH 14-15, WITH A SOVIET MFA DELEGATION LED BY THE
HEAD OF THE SECOND EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT SUSLOV.
BEGIN TEXT:

SOV CSCE SPOKESMAN ANTIASOV, DEPUTY CHIEF OF DEPT OF GENERAL
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INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS. LAID STRESS ON DECIDING BEFORE
BGRAD WHAT POLITICAL CHARACTER OF MEETING SHOULD BEM
OTHER DECISIONS RE ORGANIZATION OF WORK ETC WOULD FLOW FROM
THAT. AMONG POINTS HE MADE IN EXPLAINING WHAT THIS MEANT
WAS THAT BGRAD WAS, IN SOV VIEW, A CONSULTATIVE MEETING.
IT MIGHT MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS BUT THESE SHOULD FOLLOW
STRICTLY FROM FINAL ACT AND WOULD HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED FOR
APPROVAL OF RESPECTIVE GOVTS.

AFTER HAVING CIRCUMSCRIBED THE NATURE OF BGRAD IN THIS WAY,

ANTIASOV WENT ON TO CONFIRM WHAT HAS BEEN EMERGING FROM REPORTS RECEIVED OVER PAST FEW MONTHS, NAMELY, THAT SOVS ARE DRAWING BACK FROM THEIR POSITION AS ONLY DEMANDEURS AT BGRAD (SO FAR) AND ARE PURSUING THEIR PROPOSALS IN OTHER FORA, INTERPRETING ROLE OF BGRAD IN SUCH A WAY AS TO PRECLUDE ANY DECISION-MAKING FUNCTION. ANTIASOV DESCRIBED WHAT SOUNDED LIKE VERY RELAXED AND FLEXIBLE APPROACH TO BREZHNEV PROPOSALS WHICH SOVIETS NO/NO LONGER SEEM TO SEE AS BEING DISCUSSED AND DECIED PRIMARILY AT BGRAD BUT AT ECE.

WHILE DISCLAIMING EXPERTISE ON SUBJ, ANTIASOV INDICATED SOVS WOULD BE SUBMITTING TO ECE (EITHER BY LETTER TO STANOVNIK SHORTLY OR AT 32ND ECE ANNUAL SESSION) AN ELABORATION OF THEIR PROPOSALS. THEY WANTED DECISION ON QUOTE AT LEASE UNQUOTE ONE CONFERENCE AND CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT SEEMED MOST ACCEPTABLE TO OTHERS. THEY SEEMED PREPARED TO HAVE DECISIONS ON OTHER CONFERENCE PUT OFF FOR TIME BEING. WHEN WE SUGGESTED THAT SOV ELABORATION OF THEIR PROPOSALS AT SUCH LATE STAGE BEFORE ECE MIGHT RESULT IN ECE DECISION BEING PUT OFF FOR SOME TIME WHILE ELABORATION BEING STUDIED, ANTIASOV EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THERE WOULD BE POSITIVE DECISION AT ECE IN TERMS OF APPROVAL OF IDEA BUT HE DID NOT/NOT SEEM TOO CONCERNED AT PROSPECT OF DELAY IN DECISION (HE INDICATED IT HAD TAKEN THEM LONGER THAN EXPECTED TO PREPARE ELABORATION). AT SAME TIME WHEN ASKED WHAT ROLE BGRAD HAD TO PLAY IN SOV SCENARIO, HE INDICATED THAT IF NO/NO POSITIVE
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DECISION TAKEN AT ECE, PROPOSALS COULD BE DISCUSSED AT BGRAD QUOTE IN GENERAL WAY UNQUOTE OR IN GENERAL BASKET II FRAMEWORK WITHOUT MEETING TAKING DECISIONS ITSELF BUT, FOR EXAMPLE, RECOMMENDING THAT ECE TAKE ACTION.

AS SOVS SEE THEM, CONFERENCES WOULD SERVE AS AN QUOTE INTERMEDIARY UNQUOTE BETWEEN FINAL ACT AND IMPLEMENTATION, STIMULATING ACTION IN AREAS CONCERNED, THEY WOULD GIVE IMPETUS TO WHAT WAS NOW BEING DONE (IN ECE) AND ENCOURAGE ACTION IN NEW AREAS WHERE THERE ARE COMMON PROBLEMS. SOVS SEEMED COMPLETELY RECEPTIVE TO IDEAS ABOUT AREAS TO BE INCLUDED. THEY STRESSED HIGH-LEVEL NATURE OF CONFERENCES AS MEANS OF STIMULATING INTEREST AND ACTION IN THESE AREAS (THEY USE TERM QUOTE CONGRESSES UNQUOTE SINCE THIS APPARENTLY SIGNIFIES SOMETHING EVEN HIGHER THAN WORD QUOTE CONFERENCES UNQUOTE. ANTIASOV ACKNOWLEDGED ECE HAD ROLE IN ORGANIZING AND IMPLEMENTING DECISIONS RE THESE CONFERENCES.

FACT THAT ANTIASOV SEEMED RELAXED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF DECISION ON ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE BEING DELAYED BECAUSE OF LATE SUBMISSION OF SOV ELABORATION SUGGESTS RUSSIANS EITHER STILL DISORGANIZED ON THIS SUBJ OR MAY INDEED BE PREPARED FOR SOME COMPROMISE WHEREBY 32DN ECE SESSION WOULD TAKE SOME POSITIVE FOLLOW-UP DECISIONS LEADING FINAL DECISION

ON CONFERENCES TO LATER STAGE. THIS WILL REQUIRE FURTHER
PROBING. MAIN POINT IS THAT WHILE RUSSIANS MAY BE
PREPARED TO SEE CONSTRUCTIVE DECISIONS TAKEN BY ECE ON
ENVIRONMENT QUESTIONS (AS MENTIONED PARA 6/6 ABOVE), THEY
WILL UNDOUBTEDLY TRY TO INSIST ON SOME SORT OF DECISION ON
THEIR PROPOSALS THAT KEEPS CONGRESS IDEA ALIVE EVEN IF
PUT OFF FOR TIME BEING. STRAUSS-HUPE

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